

ment has been the low sales figures for the \$7.00 "Golden Passports," which allow the purchaser access, without additional cost, to all National Parks and other areas for which an entrance fee is charged.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund benefits both Federal and State projects. Sixty per cent of the monies of the Land and Water Conservation Fund are returned to the states for state park programs and acquisitions. These grants are made to the states on a fifty/fifty matching fund basis, the states paying for at least one-half of the costs and expenses of their projects. Before a state is eligible for consideration for a grant out of the Fund, it must have a comprehensive plan for outdoor recreation acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior. This encourages the states to think and plan seriously about the critical recreational requirements, present and future, of their citizens, as well as providing a sound means for implementing their plans.

Some of the projects that have been accomplished by states with the use of these Federal grants-in-aid are: the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in Maine, where this beautiful river was rescued from disastrous timber cutting, logging roads, and unsightly subdivisions with the aid of \$1.5 million in Federal funds; the Lake Tahoe State Park on the Nevada side of that beautiful lake, which retained as wilderness 12,157 acres on the northeast corner of the lake which was so rapidly becoming an eyesore; an enlargement of the Humboldt Redwood State Park in California which preserved the Avenue of the Giants; the acquisition of Natural Tunnel State Park in Virginia; and the establishing of hiking, bicycle, and horse trails in some twelve urban areas in many states which demonstrate what can be done with a small capital outlay to enhance outdoor recreation for city dwellers.

FUNDS FOR PARK PURCHASES

The forty per cent of the funds to be used by the Federal government are to be used for the acquisition of land and waters by the National Park Service and the Forest Service, and for the protection of threatened species of fish and wildlife. This means that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is the primary source of financing for all new National Park and Forest Service acquisitions, as well as the expansion of presently existing facilities. Some of the current projects calling upon the Fund are:

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania and New Jersey;

Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland;

Fire Island National Seashore in New York;

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area in California;

Point Reyes National Seashore in California; and

National Forest projects, such as those at Ottawa in Michigan; Monongahela in West Virginia; Allegheny in Pennsylvania; and Tonto in Arizona.

These are but a few examples of the projects now in progress. What the future holds by way of demands on the Fund is impossible to say, but ambitious projects, such as the proposed Redwood National Park, will require substantial sums.

In its present condition, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is inadequate to meet the needs for which it was created. In every session of Congress we see more and more bills to have some worthwhile area designated as a National Park, National Seashore, National Recreation Area, or the like. The Fund simply will not bear these additional costs; the Fund is not even able to keep up with the presently existing demands made upon it to finance the acquisition and development of areas already authorized by Congress.

LAND SPECULATION DRIVES PRICES UP

The problem of insufficient funds is additionally complicated by the rising cost of land acquisition and development. The time gap between the designation of an area for consideration for a national enjoyment area, its approval by Congress, and the appropriation of funds to carry out the plan of procurement and development, is often great. Often a period of several years elapses before funds are available to perform the actual purchases necessary to carry out a noble and far-sighted plan. This time lag often produces a disturbing situation which repeatedly faces those of us who favor conservation of our natural heritage—land speculation. Frequently, soon after the announcement of the government's interest in establishing a recreational facility in a given area, the land in the area is bought up by those intent on holding up the government for as